

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 ACDA-10 MBFR-02 SCI-01

AID-10 MC-02 NASA-01 COME-00 RSR-01 /081 W

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R 240835Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7552

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9739

LIMDIS

PASS JCS FOR ADMIRAL MOORER

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE ROCKET PROJECT

1. DURING COURTESY CALL WHICH I MADE ON EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ALEX MELCHOR AUGUST 24, I WAS SHOWN FILM AND STILL PHOTOS OF PHILIPPINE ROCKET PROJECT NAMED "BONG BONG". ROCKET IS RUDIMENTARY LIQUID FUELED BALLISTIC TUBE (180 MM) WHICH IS MOUNTED ON MOBILE LAUNCHER. ITS ALLEGED PRIME PURPOSE IS TO CARRY SILVER IODIDE PACKAGE INTO TYPHOON SYSTEMS IN ORDER TO BREAK THEM UP OR DEFLECT THEM.

2. IN DISCUSSION CONCOMITANT TO FILM SHOW, MELCHOR CLARIFIED REQUESTS HE HAD MADE TO ADMIRALS MOORER AND GAYLER CONCERNING ROCKETRY. HIS INTERESTS BOIL DOWN TO TWO SPECIFICALLY STATED SUBJECTS AND SOME ADDITIONAL VAGUE ALLUSIONS. SPECIFICALLY STATED ARE (A) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PHIL ROCKET SCIENTISTS, AND (B) A GUIDANCE
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SYSTEM WHICH WILL AT LEAST PERMIT TRIGGERING OF SILVER

IODIDE PAYLOAD INTO TYPHOON SYSTEMS AT REGULATED ALTITUDES.

3. VAGUELY ALLUDED INTERESTS ARE (A) AIR TO GROUND MISSILES FOR COMBAT AIRCRAFT AND (B) COMBAT AIRCRAFT OF ALL WEATHER VARIETY CAPABLE OF UTILIZING SUCH MISSILES.

4. I TOLD MELCHOR THAT GEN. GRIMSLEY OF JUSMAG WOULD FOLLOW UP OUR DISCUSSION. I SAID NASA MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE SOURCE FOR TYPHOON ROCKET ASSISTANCE RATHER THAN U.S. MILITARY. AS FAR AS AIR TO GROUND MISSILES, I MADE DISCOURAGING NOISES. ON COMBAT AIRCRAFT, I EXPRESSED DOUBTS ANYTHING POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF NAVY TYPE A-4, AND SAID I WASN'T SURE WHETHER THEY FITTED HIS INTEREST.

COMMENT: MELCHOR'S PROJECTS IN ROCKET FIELD APPEAR TO BE PRODUCT OF SOMEWHAT GADGET-HAPPY IMAGINATION, BUT SO LONG AS CONFINED TO TYPHOONERY, SEEM WORTHY OF SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION.

SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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